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**AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS:**

Please amend the claims as follows. The following listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (Previously Presented) An isolated or recombinant nucleic acid comprising a polynucleotide sequence that has at least 99% sequence identity to the entire length of the polynucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:8 or the complementary polynucleotide sequence thereof, wherein said polynucleotide sequence promotes expression of a nucleic acid encoding a polypeptide to which the polynucleotide sequence is operably linked.

2-3. (Canceled)

4. (Previously Presented) The nucleic acid of claim 1, wherein the nucleic acid comprises the polynucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:8 or the complementary polynucleotide sequence thereof.

5-6. (Canceled)

7. (Previously Presented) The nucleic acid of claim 1, comprising a polynucleotide sequence that has at least 99.5% sequence identity to the polynucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:8 or the complementary polynucleotide sequence thereof.

8-9. (Canceled)

10. (Currently Amended) An isolated or recombinant nucleic acid comprising a subsequence of the polynucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:8, said subsequence comprising nucleic acid residues 1 to 907 of SEQ ID NO:8 ~~at positions corresponding to position 1 to position 909 of the consensus sequence shown in SEQ ID NO:21~~, or the complementary polynucleotide sequence thereof.

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11. (Previously Presented) The nucleic acid of claim 10, wherein the subsequence promotes the expression of a nucleic acid encoding a polypeptide to which the subsequence is operably linked.

12-20. (Canceled)

21. (Currently Amended) The nucleic acid of claim 1, wherein the nucleic acid comprises a deletion of one or more nucleotide residues ~~in a region corresponding to~~ at nucleotide residue positions 829-834 or 840-843 of SEQ ID NO:8, or the complementary polynucleotide sequence thereof 830-835 or 841-844 of the consensus sequence shown in SEQ ID NO:21.

22. (Currently Amended) The nucleic acid of claim 21, wherein the nucleic acid comprises a deletion of the nucleotide residues at ~~positions corresponding to~~ nucleotide residue positions 829-834 or 840-843 of SEQ ID NO:8, or the complementary polynucleotide sequence thereof 830-835 or 841-844 of the consensus sequence.

23. (Currently Amended) The nucleic acid of claim 22, wherein the nucleic acid comprises a deletion of the nucleotide residues at ~~positions corresponding to~~ nucleotide residue positions 829-834 and 840-843 of SEQ ID NO:8, or the complementary polynucleotide sequence thereof 830-835 and 841-844 of the consensus sequence.

24-25. (Canceled)

26. (Currently Amended) The nucleic acid of claim 1, wherein the nucleic acid comprises an insertion of a nucleotide residue, as compared to the human Towne CMV promoter polynucleotide sequence shown in SEQ ID NO:20, after the nucleotide residue ~~corresponding to that positioned~~ at position 852 853 of SEQ ID NO: 8, or the complementary polynucleotide sequence thereof the consensus sequence shown in SEQ ID NO:21.

27. (Currently Amended) An isolated or recombinant nucleic acid comprising a polynucleotide sequence having at least 99% sequence identity to a nucleotide sequence which

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comprises the sequence of SEQ ID NO:8 with a deletion of one or more nucleotide residues ~~at in a region corresponding to~~ nucleic acid residue positions 683-734 684-735 of SEQ ID NO:8 the consensus sequence shown in SEQ ID NO:21, or ~~the to a~~ complementary polynucleotide sequence thereof, wherein said polynucleotide sequence promotes expression of a nucleic acid encoding a polypeptide to which the polynucleotide sequence is operably linked.

28. (Currently Amended) The isolated or recombinant nucleic acid of claim 27, wherein the isolated or recombinant nucleic acid comprises a polynucleotide sequence having at least 99% sequence identity to a nucleotide sequence which comprises the sequence of SEQ ID NO:8 with a deletion of the nucleotide residues at corresponding to nucleotide residue positions 683-734 684-735 of SEQ ID NO:8 the consensus sequence or the complementary polynucleotide sequence thereof.

29-30. (Canceled)

31. (Currently Amended) An isolated or recombinant nucleic acid, wherein the nucleic acid comprises a polynucleotide sequence comprising the nucleic acid residues 1 to 930 at nucleic acid residue positions corresponding to position 1 to position 930 of the consensus sequence shown in SEQ ID NO:21.

32. (Canceled)

33. (Currently Amended) The nucleic acid of claim 31, wherein the nucleic acid comprises a polynucleotide sequence comprising the nucleic acid residues at nucleic acid residue positions corresponding to positions 1 to 932 of the consensus sequence shown in SEQ ID NO:21.

34. (Canceled)

35. (Currently Amended) An isolated or recombinant nucleic acid comprising a polynucleotide sequence having at least 99% sequence identity to a nucleotide sequence which comprises the sequence of SEQ ID NO:8 with a deletion of one or more nucleotide residues ~~at in a~~

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~~region corresponding to~~ nucleotide residue positions 319-511 ~~319-512~~ of SEQ ID NO:8 ~~the~~  
~~consensus sequence shown in SEQ ID NO:21~~, or the complementary polynucleotide sequence  
thereof, wherein said polynucleotide sequence promotes expression of a nucleic acid encoding a  
polypeptide to which the polynucleotide sequence is operably linked.

36. (Currently Amended) The isolated or recombinant nucleic acid of claim 35,  
wherein the isolated or recombinant nucleic acid comprises a polynucleotide sequence having at  
least 99% sequence identity to a nucleotide sequence which comprises the sequence of SEQ ID  
NO:8 with a deletion of the nucleotide residues ~~at corresponding to~~ nucleotide residue positions  
319-511 ~~319-512~~ of SEQ ID NO:8, ~~or the complementary polynucleotide sequence thereof the~~  
~~consensus sequence.~~

37-43. (Canceled)

44. (Previously Presented) The nucleic acid of claim 1, wherein the  
polynucleotide sequence is operably linked to a nucleic acid encoding a polypeptide to form an  
expression cassette.

45. (Canceled)

46. (Previously Presented) The nucleic acid of claim 44, wherein the polypeptide-  
encoding nucleic acid encodes a polypeptide selected from the group consisting of a viral  
polypeptide, an immunogen, an immunomodulatory molecule, an antigen, an adjuvant, an allergen,  
an antibody, a bacterial toxin, a cytokine, a cytokine receptor, an enzyme, and a co-stimulatory  
molecule.

47. (Previously Presented) The nucleic acid of claim 46, wherein the polypeptide-  
encoding nucleic acid encodes an antigen selected from the group consisting of a cancer antigen, a  
hepatitis B surface antigen, a hepatitis A antigen, and a hepatitis C antigen.

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48. (Previously Presented) The nucleic acid of claim 46, wherein the polypeptide-encoding nucleic acid encodes a co-stimulatory polypeptide that binds to a CD28 or CTLA-4 receptor.

49-61. (Canceled)

62. (Previously Presented) A vector comprising at least one nucleic acid of claim 1.

63. (Original) The vector of claim 62, wherein the vector is an expression vector.

64. (Original) The vector of claim 62, wherein the vector is selected from a plasmid, a cosmid, a phage, a virus or fragment thereof, a bacterial artificial chromosome (BAC), a yeast artificial chromosome (YAC).

65. (Currently Amended) An isolated or cultured ~~recombinant~~ cell comprising the nucleic acid of claim 1.

66. (Original) The cell of claim 65, wherein the cell comprises a human cell.

67-73. (Canceled)

74. (Previously Presented) A method of producing a polypeptide, the method comprising:

- (a) providing a population of cells comprising a nucleic acid of claim 1 operably linked to a nucleic acid encoding a polypeptide; and
- (b) expressing the polypeptide in at least a subset of the population of cells or progeny thereof.

75. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 74, wherein the population of cells is provided by introducing the nucleic acid operably linked to the polypeptide-encoding nucleic acid into the population of cells.

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76. (Original) The method of claim 74, further comprising isolating the polypeptide from the cells.

77. (Original) The method of claim 74, wherein the cells are in culture.

78. (Original) The method of claim 77, comprising expressing the polypeptide by culturing the population or subset of the population of cells or progeny thereof in a nutrient medium under conditions in which the nucleic acid promotes expression of the polypeptide.

79. (Original) The method of claim 78, further comprising isolating or recovering the polypeptide from the cells or from the nutrient medium.

80-92. (Canceled)

93. (Previously Presented) A kit comprising a nucleic acid of claim 1.

94. (Previously Presented) A kit comprising a vector of claim 62.

95-105. (Canceled)

106. (Currently Amended) An isolated or recombinant nucleic acid comprising a polynucleotide sequence that has at least 99% sequence identity to a nucleotide sequence which comprises the sequence of SEQ ID NO:8 but lacks the nucleotide residues of ~~corresponding to~~ the first exon, or the complementary polynucleotide sequence thereof, wherein the polynucleotide sequence promotes expression of a nucleic acid encoding a polypeptide to which the polynucleotide sequence is operably linked.

107. (Previously Presented) The nucleic acid of claim 1, wherein the polynucleotide sequence or complementary polynucleotide sequence thereof promotes expression of a polypeptide-encoding nucleic acid in a mammalian cell, wherein said polypeptide is capable of inducing an immune response.

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108-112. (Canceled)

113. (Previously Presented) A vector for expression of a polypeptide in a mammalian cell comprising a promoter, said promoter comprising a polynucleotide sequence having at least 99% sequence identity to the entire length of the sequence of SEQ ID NO:8, wherein said promoter is capable of directing transcription of a heterologous coding sequence operably linked downstream of the polynucleotide sequence of the promoter.

114. (Previously Presented) The vector of claim 113, wherein the polynucleotide sequence of the promoter is linked directly to the heterologous coding sequence.

115. (Previously Presented) The vector of claim 113, further comprising an origin of replication positioned upstream of and operably linked to the polynucleotide sequence of the promoter.

116. (Previously Presented) The vector of claim 113, further comprising a polyadenylation region positioned downstream of and operably linked to the polynucleotide sequence of the promoter.

117. (Canceled)

118. (Currently Amended) An isolated or cultured ~~recombinant~~ cell transfected with a vector comprising the vector of claim 113.

119. (Currently Amended) The isolated or cultured ~~recombinant~~ cell of claim 118, wherein the cell is a mammalian cell.

120. (Canceled)

121. (Previously Presented) A vector comprising at least one nucleic acid of claim 4.

122. (Previously Presented) A vector comprising at least one nucleic acid of claim 7.

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123. (Canceled)

124. (Currently Amended) The nucleic acid of claim 27, wherein the polynucleotide sequence has at least 99.5% sequence identity to a nucleotide sequence which comprises the sequence of SEQ ID NO:8 with a deletion of one or more nucleotide residues ~~in a region corresponding to~~ at nucleic acid residue positions 683-734 ~~684-735~~ of SEQ ID NO:8 ~~the consensus sequence shown in SEQ ID NO:21~~, or ~~the~~ to a complementary polynucleotide sequence thereof.

125. (Currently Amended) The nucleic acid of claim 35, wherein the polynucleotide sequence has at least 99.5% sequence identity to a nucleotide sequence which comprises the sequence of SEQ ID NO:8 with a deletion of one or more nucleotide residues ~~at in a region corresponding to~~ nucleotide residue positions 319-511 ~~319-512~~ of SEQ ID NO:8, or ~~the complementary polynucleotide sequence thereof~~ the consensus sequence shown in SEQ ID NO:21.

126. (Currently Amended) The vector of claim 113, wherein said promoter comprises a polynucleotide sequence having at least 99.5% sequence identity to the entire length of the sequence of SEQ ID NO:8, or the complementary polynucleotide sequence thereof.

127. (New) The nucleic acid of claim 125, wherein the polynucleotide sequence has at least 99.5% sequence identity to a nucleotide sequence which comprises the sequence of SEQ ID NO:8 with a deletion of the nucleotide residues at nucleotide residue positions 319-511 of SEQ ID NO:8, or the complementary polynucleotide sequence thereof.

These amendments are made without prejudice to subsequent renewal of any subject matter canceled from any claim herein and are not to be construed as abandonment of the previously claimed subject matter or agreement or acquiescence with any objection or rejection of record.